

California GARDEN

San Diego County's Garden Magazine Since 1909

JUNE-JULY, 1962

Vol. 53, No. 5

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

JUNE - JULY, 1962

Vol 53, No. 3

How large must an organization be before it becomes a force in the community? Two recent cases seem to point up the fact that they might better be small.

Citizens Coordinate, a local group whose slogan reads "For a Handsome Community," cut its milk teeth this past year on the San Diego billboard controversy. Even while it was releasing condescending remarks about the insignificant size of Citizens Coordinate's membership, the mammoth Outdoor Advertising Industry (employer of just over one hundred in San Diego County, please your soul), was squirming on the defensive and bleating justifications that equated billboards with patriotism and motherhood.

CC's forceful, thoughtful arguments apparently made sense. One Planning Commission member admitted that, like so many of us, he had stopped seeing the familiar sights and un-sights of San Diego. Another remarked that if the Billboard issue weren't settled soon, his postman was going to resign. Citizens Coordinate, less than 100 strong, unleashed a whole lot of pens and opened a lot of eyes.

The San Diego ordinance, still not enacted at this writing, may provide a ban against billboards on all new freeways. This will be progress. It probably will not serve to clean up the existing highway entrances to the city, but enlightenment on that score is bound to come. When it does, expect to find Citizens Coordinate in the wings.

* * *

An even smaller group succeeded where larger ones have failed (or failed to try). In the San Fernando Valley community of Lake View Terrace (metropolitan Los Angeles), the 50 members of the Terrace Garden Club decided to do something about a triangular eye-sore at the entrance to their town.

After the installation of a signal light, the 83x65 foot plot was left with chunks of asphalt, rocks and bare ground, and soon attracted the usual collection of trash and weeds. The club received permission from the Board of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles to take matters into its own hands. Members cleaned, fenced, planted, and now face a lifetime of

watering. The cost of a watering system would run to about \$1200, so members take hoses and sprinklers from home to do the job. Eventually, they hope to install a water meter at the site to lighten the work load.

Experienced public servants are notably skeptical about such projects. They have seen far too many undertaken with enthusiasm and fanfare and then left to die. The long haul of maintenance is a test that not many clubs or people pass successfully. Too often, the undertaking depends upon the enthusiasm of a few leaders, rather than on the basic health and organization of the club itself.

In planning a project, it is proven wisdom to budget generously for maintenance, whether it is to be done by your own organization or placed in the city's hands, and to ration enthusiasm to cover the unglamorous hours of "minding the baby."

The Terrace Garden Club seems to have faced all of the hurdles and cleared them. They are willing to export their know-how south. You'll have to provide the enthusiasm.

* * *

"A Plant Tour of Presidio Park," Chauncy Jerabek's guided stroll through one of San Diego's choicest bits of greenery, makes up the bulk of the April issue of the San Diego Historical Society *Quarterly*. With a special cover, the issue becomes what the Society calls a "spectacular," and is available to visitors (and to you) at the Serra Museum gift shop. Mr. Jerabek's article first appeared in this magazine last June.

* * *

You will notice that the garden club listings (next page) have been re-set in a more readable style of type. To make this service more complete, we have also included the addresses of club presidents. The information is as accurate as we know how to make it, and we hope that you find it useful. Clubs can help by notifying us of changes in officers and meeting times. Is CALIFORNIA GARDEN on your club's mailing list?

* * *

Vote Yes on Park bonds.

George La Pointe

COVER—The massed array of Bromeliads includes (top left) *Neoregelia caroliniae tricolor*, with striped leaves; three *Aechmeas* in bloom (on diagonal from top right to bottom left); *Billbergia zebrina*, the plant with mottled leaves at upper right; *Tillandsia lindenii* at bottom right; and hiding its stripes at bottom center, *Cryptanthus 'zebra'*. Photograph by John Robinson. Courtesy The Bromeliad Society, Inc.

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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3911 St. James Pl., S.D. 3
Rep. Dir.: Mrs. Anuta Lynch CY 8-1400
202 Lewis, S.D. 3

ASTRO GARDEN CLUB

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Pres.: Charles J. Lewis, Jr. HO 9-7220
10498 Rancho Road, La Mesa
Rep. Dir.: J. E. Henderson BR 4-1754
3503 Yosemite, S.D. 9

CIVIC CENTER GARDEN CLUB

Third Saturday, Floral Building, 10 a.m.
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Rep. Dir.: James Saraceno BR 4-2628
3366 Lloyd St., S.D. 17

CONVAIR GARDEN CLUB

Second Wed., Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
President: Henry Boyd CO 4-1283
6581 Broadway, S.D. 14
Rep. Dir.: Eugene Zimmerman
1942 Abbe, S.D. 11 BR 7-3383

MISSION GARDEN CLUB

First Monday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.
President: Dr. R. J. McBride CY 5-1127
2828 Dove, S.D. 3
Rep. Dir.: Mrs. Ida Barker JU 3-1209
7595 Saranac, La Mesa

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Third Friday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
President: Robert H. Calvin SK 5-1430
Box 296, Solana Beach
Rep. Dir.: Mrs. Hermina Hilkowitz
CY 6-2282

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB

Third Friday, Homes of Members, 10 a.m.
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Rep. Dir.: Mrs. James Chapman
665 Catalina, S.D. 6 AC 2-8339

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Second Friday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Althea Hebert HO 6-3389
8845 Country Club Pl., Spring Valley
Rep. Dir.: Mrs. Lester Crowder
3130 Second St., S.D. 3 CY 5-5871

S. D. CHAPTER CALIF. ASS'N NURSERYMEN

Fourth Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
President: Frank Antonicelli CY 5-2808
1525 Fort Stockton, S.D. 3
Rep. Dir.: Bill Giacilli JU 2-2929
6362 El Cajon Blvd., S.D. 15

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY

Fourth Tuesday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
President: Arthur Harris AC 3-6497
702 Rosecrans, S.D. 6
Rep. Dir.: Dr. J. W. Troxell AT 2-9131
4950 Canterbury Dr., S.D. 16

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

First Tuesday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.
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762 N. Granados, Solana Beach
Rep. Dir.: Elizabeth A. Newkirk
1654 La Mancha Dr., S.D. 9 BR 4-2042

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9557 La Mar, Spring Valley
Rep. Dir.: Mrs. Mary Bray Watson
2337 Commonwealth, S.D. 4 AT 4-2669

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2217 Whitman, S.D. 3
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2260 Catalina, S.D. 7 AC 3-6183

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9195 Harness, Spring Valley
Rep. Dir.: Archie Burgess GR 4-1659
6269 Chadwick, S.D. 14

Other Garden Clubs

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

San Diego Branch
Fourth Monday, Barbour Hall, University
& Pershing, 8 p.m.
Pres.: Dr. Hazel McBride CY 5-1127
2828 Dove St., S.D. 3

San Miguel Branch

First Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon
Grove, 8 p.m.
President: Mrs. Jack Brook HO 6-0162
7151 Central Ave., Lemon Grove

CABRILLO-MISSION GARDEN CLUB

Third Thurs., Members' Gardens, 9:30 a.m.
President: Mrs. Raymond K. Stone
2987 Melbourne Dr., S.D. 11 BR 7-7134

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB

First Friday, VFW Hall, Carlsbad, 1 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Doris Simpson PA 9-1515
1075 Chiquapin Ave., Carlsbad

CHULA VISTA FUCHSIA CLUB

Second Tuesday, Norman Park Recreation
Center, 7:30 p.m.
President: Mrs. J. L. Riese GA 2-0587
574 I. Chula Vista

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB

Third Wednesday, C. V. First Christian
Club, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. W. R. Williams GA 2-7627
887 Country Club Dr., Chula Vista

CLAIREMONT GARDEN CLUB

Third Tuesday, Clairemont Community
Center, 10 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. William Cordes BR 6-4182
2643 Burgener Blvd., S.D. 10

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

No regular meeting date, Christ Church
Parish Hall
Pres.: Capt. Frank T. Sloat HE 5-3325
1111 Adella, Coronado

CROSS-TOWN GARDEN CLUB

Third Monday, Barbour Hall, University
& Pershing, 8 p.m.
President: Charles Williams AT 4-2317
4240 46th, S.D. 15

CROWN GARDEN CLUB OF CORONADO

Fourth Thursday, Red Cross Bldg., 1113
Adella Lane, 9:30 a.m.
President: Mrs. J. Dunham Reilly HE 5-4685
451 Country Club Lane, Coronado

DELCADIA GARDEN CLUB
Pres.: Mrs. Knute Eastman PL 3-3029
1527 San Elijo, Cardiff

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB (PAUMA VLY.)
Second Tues., Members Homes, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Jack Thornburg PI 2-3225
Box 748, Pauma Valley

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Pres.: Mrs. Albert Seibert SH 5-6933
Route 3, Box 816, Escondido

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Third Monday, Community House, La Jolla
7:30 p.m.
President: Col. Edwin P. Lock, Jr.
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FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Last Thurs., Reche Clubhouse, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Nelson Bender RA 8-2730
815 E. Alvarado, Fallbrook

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Third Tuesday, South Bay Community
Center, 1 p.m.
President: Mrs. Al Hague GA 4-9425
6700 Dahlia, Imperial Beach

LAKESED GARDEN CLUB
Third Monday, Lakeside Farm School,
7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Cecil Carender HI 3-1575
P.O. Box 608, Lakeside

LA MESA SPRINGHOUSE GARDEN CLUB
Third Thursday, Porter Hall, La Mesa
7:30 p.m.
President: Cdr. Alfred A. Paulsen
8219 Finlay, La Mesa HO 6-8366

LA MESA WOMAN'S CLUB
(GARDEN SECTION)
Third Thursday, La Mesa Woman's Club,
1:45 p.m.
President: Mrs. John Casale HO 5-0997
9372 Loren Drive, La Mesa

LEMON GROVE WOMAN'S CLUB
(GARDEN SECTION)
First Tuesday, Lemon Grove Woman's
Club House, 1 p.m.
Chairman: Mrs. Frank Barber HO 6-8641
2336 Bonita, Lemon Grove

MISSION BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB
(GARDEN SECTION)
First Friday, Mission Beach Woman's
Club House, 9 a.m.
Chairman: Mrs. John A. Horrell
818 Balboa Court, S.D. 8 HU 8-3293

NATIONAL CITY GARDEN CLUB
Third Wednesday, National City
Community Bldg., 7:30 p.m.
President: Ronald Branham GR 1-1488
477 Parkbrook St., Spring Valley

O. C. IT GROW GARDEN CLUB
Second Wednesday, S. Oceanside
School Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
President: Mr. Vere E. Goff PA 9-3771
2850 Highland, Carlsbad

PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB
Second Monday, Home Federal
Friendship Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Ernest Ambort BR 6-1595
4440 Ingulf St., S.D. 10

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Pres.: Mrs. Raymond Stocks RI 8-2243
14725 Espola Road, Poway

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
Second Wednesday
Pres.: Mrs. Charles Chapin PL 6-1143
Rancho Santa Fe

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
Third Wednesday, Seacoast Savings
Building, Encinitas, 10 a.m.
President: Mrs. Waldo Vogt SK 5-4772
773 Barbara Ave., Solana Beach

SANTA MARIA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Second Monday, Ramona Park, 10 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Dorace Scarbery ST 9-0428
San Vincente Rd., Ramona

VISTA GARDEN CLUB
First Friday, Vista Recreation Center,
1:30 p.m.
President: Mrs. Jack Morgan PA 4-7510
146 Park Ave., Vista

VISTA MESA GARDEN CLUB
Second Tuesday, Linda Vista
Recreation Center, 8 p.m.
President: Mrs. John Hoaglin BR 7-1368
3746 Ben. S.D. 11

GROSSMONT CENTER GARDEN CLUB
Second Mon., Grossmont Center, 10 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Charles Trapp HO 5-4326
6323 Lake Apopka Place, S.D. 19

CALENDAR

June 23-24
National City Flower Show. 933 E
Ave., National City, Sat. 2-9 p.m.,
Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

June 29-July 8
Southern California Exposition and
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July 26
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July 29
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Karl H. Reik

'Seika' Means Formal

• Using a bronze usubata on a dark wood base, Mrs. Haruto Obata, noted Berkeley flower arranger and teacher, delineates the three points of Heaven, Man and Earth in variegated euonymus foliage.

The long vertical line designates Heaven. Man is indicated by the expanding line to the left,

and Earth by the line at lower right.

This type of arrangement, in the formal Japanese style called 'Seika,' is used as part of an alcove composition. A long scroll, decorated either with writing or painting to suit the occasion and season, would be hung against the back wall.

Again this summer, Mrs. Obata will conduct classes for beginning and advanced arrangers at Art Enterprises in Mission Hills. Former students claim that one of her great strengths as a teacher is her ability to adapt Japanese techniques to Western settings.

Commentary

It's Time To Light Up Your Garden

By Keith S. McMahon

CALIFORNIA home owners are moving outdoors! From one end of the state to the other, living areas and play areas of California homes are being expanded to include the terrace, the garden, and the yard. More families every year are spending more time outdoors after dark, because they have discovered that outdoor living after sundown is the economical way to increase the size of the family living area, and an easy, pleasant way to entertain.

Outdoor lighting is the keystone around which this trend is developing, for without lighting there can be very little outdoor family living. Outdoor lighting increases the hours of fun and recreation in the yard; it makes possible extra hours for yard activities in the cool of the evening; it provides light for safety and enhances the beauty of garden areas. A lighted garden can open up a new world of enjoyment. The pleasure one receives from a well-planned and planted garden does not have to cease at sundown. In fact, a lighted garden can bring out more natural beauty than ever existed during daytime hours.

Lighting is for any garden. Perish the thought that the lighted garden is a luxury only for those whose grounds are large and formal. Any garden, be it ever so modest, can come to life during the evenings, for garden lighting need not be an expensive investment. It can range from a few spots of light using temporary, outdoor-type extension cords, to a well-planned, permanently installed system. An important point to remember, however, is that weather-proof cords and moisture-proof connections are a must for tem-

porary and permanent installations alike.

Another requisite in installing garden lighting is consideration for others. That is, the neighbors' right to privacy should be respected; place bulbs and fixtures so that the light is confined to your premises. In your own garden, the prime rule is: keep the light source out of viewers' eyes. Hide bulbs in shrubbery or use a shielded reflector that conceals the light bulb. Blinding lights spoil what should be a restful garden scene.

A question often asked on garden lighting is, "What color lighting shall I use?" White flowers, brightly-colored ones, or gardens with mixed colors look most natural under white lighting. However, no attempt should be made to "whitewash" the entire garden in imitation of nature's sunlight. The result may be flat and monotonous and the natural colors may become lost. Actually, the most satisfying "picture" comes from contrasting areas of light and shadow, or from highlighting choice landscape effects or silhouetting trees. As a rule, colored light of the same hue as the object to be lighted will heighten the color. Green and amber are two of the most popular colors in use today. A lot of fun can be had by simply experimenting with colored lights, and the variety of effects is limited only by one's imagination.

A few years ago, outdoor lighting equipment was limited to entrance fixtures, spot and flood bulb holders, and a few pieces of equipment for lighting flower beds and paths. Today, the home owner can choose from a great variety of units all made for outdoor use. As a matter of fact in 1952 only five companies made garden-lighting equipment; today, dozens do! Why has this happened? One obvious answer is the popularity of modern architecture with its picture windows and big glass walls for indoor-outdoor living. Seen from inside a lighted room at night, these broad expanses of glass are black mirrors. But when the area beyond is lighted, the glass resumes its daytime transparency and brings in the view.

Study your garden. Experiment at night by trying lights at different locations and on different subjects—trees, flower borders, fence, pool, path, steps. Try various sizes of bulbs and fixtures, experiment with color, and then decide on your permanent wiring and fixture needs. It is partly trial and error, but fun, too. So, light up your garden. A new pleasure awaits you.



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California Garden

JUNE - JULY, 1962

A Fair Question:

Why Conservation?

A Direct Answer:

SURVIVAL

By Roland S. Hoyt

THIS subject that has been bruited about since before the first Roosevelt is reaching some kind of climax, a summit or turning point where population begins to get out of hand and peoples in the world starve as the carrying capacity of the land is strained beyond all reason.

Happily, now, conservation is getting the attention of thinking people: their observation of the continuing waste of natural resources; their firm consideration of ways and means toward turning an obvious tide . . . reflection, surely on the basic urge to prepare the way and lighten the burden for posterity.

This is more than wildlife and wilderness or recreation. Are we prepared within and without to replace some of the good earth and its substance as we found it; to consume less, or at least to use more intelligently that which remains; and possibly, to restock and re-inoculate in order that nature may work more freely in our interest? After all, we are parceled as one with this abstract, all-covering word conservation; there is no proven manner of getting away from interdependence.

The subject is wide, embracing everything we are or hope for the future. It is immediate, for in some respects we are reaching a point of no return. We have abused and con-

tended unfairly with this inheritance, the natural cover of the earth . . . trees, under-wood, grass . . . together with its concomitant animal life. This has been going on for hundreds of years in the land, and now the very serious issue is whether we couch our tools of destruction and join up. At least we must allow the lady to come to some sort of terms with herself.

Consider soil, and the fact that America has largely financed with food the industrial revolution and growth of Europe for these near three hundred years. The lands of New England and the middle Atlantic states, as well as those of the South, have been depleted, impoverished, many of them deserted finally for the deeper, richer ground of the western valley. Now they tell us in no uncertain terms that the strain shows there in the Ohios where soils have been picked up and removed by man and his carelessness to depths actually measurable in linear feet.

It has been reliably reported that in the over-all, American "Civilization" has used up—not eaten—one-third of its total of top-soil. The present generation knows first-hand of "dust bowls," this wind erosion, result of over-grazing of grasslands and greed for grain where only a sod will hold the land. Iowa's erosion cost, presumably by water, is reported as of

1947 at \$134,000,000 (only one year's billing). One wonders how a price in \$ can be put on the wherewithal, the very substance, the core and heart, the "basic" of the future of the human race on this planet.

This will serve to emphasize the prime source of soil erosion, water, which involves management of the ground itself, as it submits to man's idea of culture and handling. In view of past and present removal of the natural cover, this has not been very intelligent or self-serving. It is said that several hundred to a thousand years are required by nature to build up one inch of top-soil. Technology will help to reduce this period, but it becomes more evident each year that something drastic must be considered in repair of the land, if present living standards are to be maintained. This is to say that the soil must not only be saved; it must be improved.

The forests have been cut out indiscriminately without a reasonable attempt to re-furnish the ground, so that rain water formulates rills in the absence of a protecting chaff to impede and hold back the flow. The rills grow into swollen creeks, to rivers that fail to carry the sudden load. So we build dikes downstream to contain the deluge, great snakes of levees that hold for awhile, then fail as the stress grows . . . to be built higher and wider in an unending progression. This must end. How high and how wide? When does the structure begin to impair materially the very function of the land it is designed to protect? It would seem that this flow, at least in part, could be held back at the source, and that surely must be the solution in the end. Also, downstream dams to retard flow and develop power, in the final concept, will have to be weighed against ultimate silting and useful farm land that is displaced. It is reported that our own Sweetwater dam had been silted 48 per cent within seven years.

Water, as such, apart from domestic or irrigation use, and sometimes with industrial application, is becoming more scarce year by year. In the name of sanitation we take over streams of pure water and let the life blood of future generations of Americans ride merrily into the sea, minerals and organic matter that may not be replaced

in time. Factories and whole industries find it necessary to move to new sources of pure water and see themselves again polluting their very source and reason of site, adding wastes to the raw sewage of cities and synthetic substances that elude even the latest disposal systems. Because of these alkalis that are so difficult to remove, and by reason of expedience of the budget, our own city finds it convenient and necessary to tunnel Point Loma and carry out to sea the end richness of the soils of forty-seven states and a county. This builds up further the natural donation of the land to the ocean. The time may come when hungry people will be forced to go down to the sea in some manner other than boat to reclaim this material which had better been put back on the land as nature has always done.

AND speaking of people, what are we to do about the growth of cities and the so-called urban sprawl that usurps so much of the Lord's land so inelegantly, with slouch and unseemly manner and so little space left inviolate. Much has been done in allocating and acquiring land for recreational purposes. Much more will be necessary. The preservation of wildlife, even on a small scale, is of more than passing interest. More than that is a sense of space for the human spirit to move around in as population closes in.

The human race of late has moved from one artificiality into another so rapidly that some marginal minds fail to adapt; here is another area where conservation is of vital concern. The more of nature and of the past, as experience in the objective, that can be preserved for these confused minds to hold on to, animals, a dog, horses or plants to work with or merely view, even pure distance, all of these can mean less money spent on asylums, the prime shame of civilization as it evolves. This is real conservation and immediate, that which in essence tends to maintain a balance: a stream with fish, a bit of wilderness wherein to catch up and allow the emotions to settle down.

When will we learn to spend money wisely and in time? After all, and in the end, there must be this reconciliation between nature and this wane and impairment of human values. That is where people who garden and others close to the soil, with dirt on their hands and grit inside, have a part to perform. Man has come up from or out of the natural scheme. Biologically

he is still a part, if he walks in health. There is an indefinable link here that cannot be overlooked if he is to continue with vantage and sanity under these abnormalities.

People make up population and this is the ultimate concern and final chapter in this thing we call conservation. Historically we know what happens. We have studied the great civilizations of the past, and accept as fact the decline and disappearance of peoples. To speak only of the Mesopotamian plains, the lush area that was, lying between the Tigris and Euphrates: it had everything; now it comes near nothing. Assyria and Babylon, where population outgrew the capacity of the land to support it, have come to be the notable examples of the waste of land. Here thriving and highly developed societies flourished. Where an estimated population up to 50 million supported itself, now can be seen mostly gullied desert with the remains of monumental irrigation systems, broken aqueducts and silted dams, the land now maintaining some 5 million people at a very low standard of living.

TODAY we look at China with a ruthless feeling, a real compassion for the terrible plight into which human, thinking beings can fall. However, we should not take too much satisfaction in comparing our two systems. Over-population in the one case comes within the local bounds of an essentially agricultural framework. When there isn't enough to eat, a portion of the people die and the balance against the land comes into reason and equity. There is suffering, yes, but no ultra-national disaster as would befall our highly organized economy. If one could imagine our own industrialized setup faced with the same problem, not enough to feed a burgeoning population, and if anyone can still further imagine finding any other spot in the world able or willing to supply the lack, he has his head in the sand. This super-industrial organization would collapse quickly of its inorganic, iron weight, and something comparable to China would evolve . . . a population return to the capacity of the land on a subsistence basis.

We had a late example of this, two of them in fact or a series. The great industrial giant that was Germany twice found it desirable or necessary to expand its territory. Again, too many people for the land . . . *Lebensraum* was the word . . . but it was the rich wheat fields of the Ukraine they saw out of the corner of their

eye. Twice this unsupported industrial canker erupted and boiled out over the world in the name of expansion for space.

It should be noted also, that England, another unnaturally industrialized nation, is extremely vulnerable so far as subsistence is concerned, and came near the hunger or starvation point as a part of the strategy of war. American troops passing through without ration cards can testify. One wonders and may well ask whether this industrialization could have matured into such immensity, had not the new world been available for raw materials and food.

And looking into the far future of America, it would appear necessary that a balance be established and maintained, especially in the matter of food as against the machine and its operator. There will be no place on this planet to supply an imbalance . . . can we look to the moon? No, the new world will probably have to look out for itself.

The same condition of over-population came about in Japan when they found it necessary to reach out, and did, into Manchuria. The condition in India appears to be quite hopeless as of the present look. What can be done when sacred cows come before babes at the eating trough and breeding goes merrily on in the face of starvation? Ships of food from without merely put off the day when a decision on population control is to be made. Help of this kind only aggravates the problem. Now they would industrialize . . . will this relieve the underlying and overpowering hunger any more surely than it has elsewhere? And what happens when this mounting population comes to the point of making munitions of war?

The point is, the world itself is becoming over-industrialized, with its emphasis on and call for ever more workers, while nearly everywhere the land is being strained on an extractive basis to support the present overburden of people. Our own soils, which are probably the richest over-all in the world and serving under a congenial climate, won't last forever under present conditions and demand. The present and existing surplus is only a phase, deceptive for the long look at the future.

THE circle begins to close . . . would it were a parabola . . . and it will do so in time, if something more is not done about it. The ancient Greeks were about the only

Why Conservation?

people who faced this situation squarely and you wouldn't want to know how they did it.

This paper is only an attempt to outline conditions as they are, present and past. The days and ages are ahead, and the case is not as hopeless as it appears to be, because of technology and because man is a thinking animal. When the situation has reached an intolerable stage, he will do something about it. But, said Omar the tent-maker, "The Bird of Time has but a little way to flutter and the Bird is on the Wing."

Will man wait too long? While he waits for birth rates to adjust naturally, what will be happening not only to standards of living, but to our very survival as the civilized entity we know and envision? It is significant that the quotation above came out of a land already deeply sunk in just such a dissolution and prostration pictured here. It is for you, and all of us, to look into this developing situation and do whatever can be done.

Editor's Note: A later article will suggest what must be done.

Silver Strand

Tough Testing Ground For Plants

SILVER STRAND Beach State Park is an attractive spot for picnicking, swimming, sun bathing, fishing and boating, but it's a tough testing ground for plants. Now that the state has completed its building program in the park, it is experimenting with plants that will withstand the harsh conditions of sun, salt, wind, and blowing, drifting sand.

The park was set aside in 1931 in its present location four miles south of the Coronado business district. It

became a state park in 1949, and improvements were completed in 1961. The combined bay and ocean frontage provides facilities for 8000 people.

What grows there?

On the ocean side:

Phormium tenax — New Zealand Flax

Juniperus sabina tamariscifolia — Taxarix Juniper

Raphiolepis indica rosea — Pink India Hawthorn

Festuca ovina glauca — Blue Fescue
Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostrate' — Prostrate Rosemary

On the bay side:

Carissa grandiflora — Natal Plum
Pittosporum crassifolium — K a r o Pittosporum

Phoenix reclinata — Senegal Date Palm

Raphiolepis umbellata ovata — India Hawthorn

At the narrow south end of the park, the native dune-building plants have been left undisturbed. This area, of limited usefulness for the active type of recreation featured elsewhere, should prove attractive to naturalists and students.

Fay Vilim



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Jules Padilla

White flowers, red bracts, and soft green leaves have made *Guzmania lingulata* a European favorite.

The Lure of Bromeliads

Have a look at these all-purpose plants for indoors and out. You may be first in your peer group to catch Bromelitis. But hurry. It's spreading fast.

By ANNE Y. HANNA

"WHAT are Bromeliads?" is a question heard more and more frequently every day. More bromeliads are being grown in all sections of the United States; as a result more of them are being displayed in public places and nurseries. It is natural then that people want to know more about them.

Although bromeliads have been variously called the plant of tomorrow and the plant of the future, they have been a favorite house plant in Europe for over one hundred years. They were named for the Swedish botanist, Olaf Bromel, 1639-1705.

The pineapple, the most familiar bromeliad of all, was brought to

Europe in the 17th century. There is a painting showing the first pineapple grown in England (1680) being presented to Charles II by his gardener, John Rose. A colored reproduction of this painting appeared in Life Magazine, November 19, 1950.

Many of the 45 or more genera in the Bromeliad family are named for the Swedish, Danish, Dutch, French and German botanists of the 18th and 19th century who traveled to Mexico, Central and South America in quest of these fascinating plants. Billbergia, Dyckia, Greigia, Guzmania, Hechtia, Hohenbergia are just a few of the genera named for these explorers.

As to the species, a Bromeliad So-

ciety member of the Los Angeles chapter suggested that there were 1800. Many of them look so much alike that it is necessary to wait for blooms before identification becomes possible. It is usually agreed that the greatest variety and most beautiful species are found in South and Central America. The largest number of species found in Mexico is in the southern state of Chiapas.

My interest in bromeliads dates back about five years. At that time I was exposed to and caught what a former President of the Bromeliad Society called "Bromelitis." He added that the only cure for the disease is more bromeliads; I agree.



Thos. L. Crist

Top, left to right, *Vriesia marie* and *Billbergia amoena*. Center, *Nidularium regeloides*. Bottom, *Aechmea luddemaniana*, *A. venrathi*, *A. fulgens discolor*. Photographed at Exotica Nursery, Solana Beach.

Bromeliads are terrestrial and epiphytic, though many epiphytic ones grow well in a potting mixture or in the garden. Wherever they are grown, see that they are firmly planted and secured; they do not like to be wobbly. They grow at sea level and at altitudes up to eight and nine thousand feet. Not many species have been found over 10,000 feet. They have been found in rocky desert areas, and in rain forests; perhaps the most common habitats are the crotches and limbs of trees.

There is a great variation in size and shape as well as in leaf texture and color, not only among the different genera, but the species of one genus. For example, *Tillandsia ionantha* measures only a few inches, while the basal rosette of *Tillandsia paniculata* measures 7 feet and its inflorescence can grow to be 11 feet

in height and 10 feet in diameter. Both are epiphytic. The little *T. ionantha* makes an interesting mobile by attaching several plants to a piece of tree fern bark or cholla wood and suspending it with wire from a high point in the lath house or home.

The smooth, soft texture which characterizes the leaves of many of the *Vriesias* indicates the need for shade or semi-shade, while the rougher and thicker-leaved plants like the terrestrial *Hechtia*, *Puya* and *Dyckia*, to name a few, will take full sun.

It is the inflorescence of the bromeliads which attracts and excites the viewer. It may vary in size from just one inch to a pendant and spike form which ranges from 3 inches to 6 and 8 feet. The inflorescence may last for as long as six months, though each bloom may endure for just a few hours or days.

Tillandsia lindenii, which was on exhibit at the 1961 Southern California Exposition and County Fair, has an inflorescence that is a flat pink sheath on a spike, from which scented, bluish-purple blooms unfold one at a time alternately up the perimeter of the 3 or 4 inch bract. Each bloom lasts from two or three days to a week. I remember one plant which delighted us by extending its blooming period from the first of November to the first of April.

Most of the bromeliads which have been grown in San Diego County, both in and out of doors, such as some of the *Billbergia*, *Tillandsia*, *Vriesia*, *Aechmea* and *Neoregelia*, are characterized by graceful, arching leaves in the form of a natural rosette, which holds water in the center of the plant. Some of the *Billbergia* are more urn shaped, with stiffer, upright leaves. The rosette of the *Neoregelia* may be quite flat, with the inflorescence almost submerged in the water held in the center of the plant.

This ability to hold water makes bromeliads ideal house plants. They can go unattended for two or three weeks at a time. Two more points in their favor as house plants: they can withstand extreme changes in temperature and in light density. They grow well in dark parts of a room, but most of them bloom better in brighter light. I saw an exception at the Honker Restaurant in La Jolla, where a *Neoregelia carolinae* was displaying its lovely red bracts under artificial light which could not entirely simulate the longer daylight hours outside.

Bromeliads may be propagated by



The Bromeliad Society, Inc.

Pineapple shows family likeness.

seed and off-shoots. When seed sets it may take as long as a year from the blooming period to ripen, as in the berry-like fruit of *Aechmea tillandsioides*, *Aechmea fulgens discolor* and *Acanthostachys strobilacea*. Most seed, it has been noted, germinates best if not planted too deep. I have had good results by barely covering the seed with sifted peat moss. A blotter or a piece of tree fern have also been used for germination of seed.

AFTER the blooming period ends, a terminal growth ceases and the off-sets begin to appear at the base of the plant. This is the usual position, though there are exceptions like the *Cryptanthus*, the "earth stars," where new plants appear at the axil of the leaves just below the bloom.

At times the off-sets begin to appear before the inflorescence. A small plant, not mature, may suffer a traumatic experience such as prolonged drought or other calamity, and react by producing tiny off-shoots, off-sets or "pups," according to one's terminology.

When a normal off-shoot grows to 5 or 6 inches it is removed carefully from the mother plant and rooted in another container to continue life's cycle. Bromeliads may seem expensive, but the knowledge that from one, many more will grow, does help. A bromeliad blooms but once, and then begins its propagation; if the off-sets are left attached, a very attractive planting group develops. Many bromeliads live for several years, and there are plants in some of the Botanical Gardens of Europe that are 50 years old.

The use of bromeliads in house or garden is another interesting facet of these exotic plants. A bromeliad tree is the name given to the placement of plants on a tree branch, ranging in size from a two-foot branch in a container to grace a coffee table or the top of a TV console, to a 6 or 8 foot limb placed in the open garden. In either case, bromeliads are wrapped in sphagnum moss and wired to the branches of the "tree." A Solana Beach artist, who does beautiful things with ceramic on copper, made some cheery mushrooms to place at the base of her small bromeliad tree. In a Japanese-modern home in Del Mar, a beautiful enclosed garden, seen through the sliding glass door of a bathroom, is canopied by a spreading pine tree which has bromeliads growing on its trunk and lower branches.

Eucalyptus trees, the beautiful and the stately, are no problem to brome-



The Bromeliad Society, Inc.

The arresting pink bract of *Tillandsia cyanea* rises from the heart of sword-like foliage. Delicate flowers are cornflower blue.

liads, which use the soil to support their roots but get their nourishment from the water and dead foliage droppings retained in their natural vases. There, under these "soil robbers" they flourish, bloom and produce their young.

FERTILIZING bromeliads is as simple as watering them. About once a month, apply any all-purpose liquid fertilizer at half-strength to the leaves. The plant's natural vase will catch the run-off and put it to use. Some people never feed bromeliads planted in the garden, and still get blooms, since these plants are equipped to ingest nourishment from organic matter which collects in their foliage.

Bromeliads are relatively free from

pests and diseases. Scale is about their only enemy, and it can be controlled by spraying or dousing with malathion. Snails find their way to bromeliads when planted in the garden. Excessive low temperature is not to their liking. A prolonged freeze down to 26 degrees will destroy the more tender-leaved species.

For those who are attracted to this family of graceful plants, I wish to extend an invitation to join the Bromeliad Society.* Bulletins, issued every two months, contain information on the many different species and genera from members in all parts of the world. The art work is exceptionally fine. A book on the culture of bromeliads is also available.

*647 S. Saltair, Los Angeles 49

A Gardener's View of the Fair



CONSIDERABLY larger than last year, the Flower Show at the 1962 Southern California Exposition and County Fair, June 29-July 8, will feature new exhibitors, keener competition, more entries and a daily "show" by floral designers.

"We expect this year's floral show to surpass anything ever presented by the Exposition," Robert Lamp, show superintendent, declared. "Not only will it be greatly enlarged, but we believe it will be the finest flower show in California."

Lamp said that the Fair management, headed by director D. Robert Jones, had gone all the way with him in his ideas to set the stage for an outstanding floral show, including new scenery and more space, approximately five acres in all. Twenty pages of the premium book are devoted to floriculture competition, indicating the major importance that the Exposition and Fair attach to their front-door exhibit.

The daily floral design "show," a brand-new feature, will present three top designers, who will demonstrate and explain floral decoration techniques. Among the designers will be foreign exchange students.

Lamp hopes that junior amateur entries will be more numerous this year, in both flower arrangements and single blooms. Several thousand amateur entries are anticipated, with competition scheduled in Potted Plants, Miniatures (dish garden and tray landscape), Flower Arrangements (seven classes), Dahlias (10 classes), and Roses (five classes).

Feature exhibits, presented primarily by professionals — commercial nurseries, landscape architects, growers, and florists—comprise the entire Open Division competition, with many premiums from \$50 to \$200, a few as high as \$300, and one, Landscape

Garden, paying \$400 for first prize.

The Division includes these display classes: Anthurium, Begonias, Tuberous Begonias, Hanging Basket of Tuberous Begonias, Cactus Garden, Carnation (cut flowers), Cut Flowers by Commercial Grower, Cut Flowers by Florist, Dahlia Display by Commercial Grower (cut flowers), Fern, Florist and Grower Association, Fuchsia, Garden Club, Gerbera, Gladiolus (cut flowers), Hanging Baskets, Hydrangea, Interior Planting, Landscape Garden, Tropical Landscape Garden.

Also: Lath House, Nursery, Orchid (cut flowers), Orchid Display by Grower, Old Fashioned Flower Garden, Outdoor Living, Pelargonium and Geranium, Potted Plants, Rock Garden, Roses (cut flowers), Rose Garden, Tropical Garden, Corsages, Flower Arrangements, Arrangement by Grower, and these Dahlia classes—Miniature, Pompon, Informal Decorative, Semi-cactus, Formal Decorative, Cactus and Specimen Bloom.

Other feature displays, in the Amateur Division, will provide competition in Dahlias (cut flowers), Fuchsias, Garden Club (amateur), Junior Garden, Patio Garden, and Hanging Baskets (two classes).

Entries for Feature Exhibits must be received by the Exposition and Fair not later than June 1. Entries for arrangements, corsages, miniatures and specimen blooms and plants have a later deadline, June 16.

Judging of landscape, nursery and garden club feature exhibits, potted plants and hanging baskets will begin at 1 p.m., June 28, the day before the fair opens to the public. Other judging, of cut flower feature exhibits, arrangements, corsages, miniatures and specimen blooms, will begin at 10 a.m., June 29, the day and hour the Fair opens.

Watch for these Plants

... after you've inhaled the beauty of the florists' exhibits and the masses of flowers in arrangements and blooming plant displays, take time to search out the forgotten beauties of yesteryear and the trends of tomorrow.

● CANNAS

SKIRTS are up, skirts are down, waists are high, waists are low—so goes the merry-go-round of change, in dress, and in all phases of life. With plants, too, recurring cycles of favor and forgetfulness occur.*

Now, the canna that fell out of popularity with the passing of the circular bed in the front lawn is again appreciated—in a new dress. *Passé* are the tall-growing plants with spindly flower heads in muddy colors, but the smaller cannas are *in*. The lovely soft pinks of the Grand Opera varieties, for example, are lower growing (4 to 5 ft.); and one in particular, *Rigoletto*, offers a beautiful clear canary yellow, not available before. (As a foot-note to our California ego, these six lovely Grand Operas that sing in our gardens were hybridized by the Howard Rose Company in Montebello.)

The newest creations in the canna world come from the famous hybridizer, Wilhelm Pfitzer, in Stuttgart, Germany. There are five distinctive varieties of Pfitzer Dwarf Cannas, each with its own charm: a cherry red; a primrose yellow; a silky salmon, sometimes almost buff; a dusty rose, called Porcelain rose; and a refreshing Chinese coral, growing to 2½ to 3 feet, a little taller than the others.

Canna growing, however, remains unchanged. They need sunny areas with soil rich in humus, and yearly division of the tubers. In our accommodating climate, even the dry tubers can be planted at any time, but preferably in early spring when the ground is beginning to warm, since the canna is semi-tropical by nature. Of course they can be transplanted from containers at any time of the year.

If possible, prepare the ground a month or two in advance, to give time for mellowing of all the organic matter you can muster—rotted leaves, peat moss, compost, dried rotted cow man-

*For fun in tracing these cycles in nature, we recommend *Reading the Landscape* by May Watts.



... and these Displays

LANDSCAPING

Blair Burkhardt fashioned Oriental night-lighted garden around the architecture of Sim Bruce Richards for this 1956 display.



TROPICAL GARDENS

Exotic plants attracted Fairest of the Fair Raquel Welch and Don Diego at 1960 show.



BLOOMING PLANTS

Geraniums, synonymous with Southern California, are almost a symbol of the Fair.

ure, or any of the soil enrichers now on the market; plus a handful of commercial fertilizer to hasten the breaking down of the organic materials.

Planting is rather shallow, 3 to 4 inches deep; and a marker where each root is set is a wise practice, since cannas are sometimes slow to sprout. Give the bed a good soaking at least once a week (with twice-a-week soaking, the flower heads will be even heavier, the foliage more tropical). If you have time to keep the faded flowers plucked off to prevent early seeding, the flowering season will be more showy and longer—in milder sections, into January. At that time, it is advisable to cut the plants to the ground, just to tidy up the garden, even if the dividing isn't done until February or March (depending on where you live).

There is a speck in the ointment, the same wretched worm we know only too well in corn on the cob. This corn-ear worm will disfigure the foliage, and distort the flowers. So, to be on the safe side, when the canna plants are about a foot tall, give a thorough spraying with DDT, down into the whorls of the unfolding leaves. Keep aphids down by heavy hosing, or use your customary spray for these joy-spoilers.

In case your interest in cannas is luke-warm or non-existent, it could be sparked by viewing them at the Fair or by a drive up to the northern part of San Diego County, where you can see a brilliant sheet of color from July to frost. Take U.S. 395, go five miles beyond Escondido; turn to your left on Deer Springs Road at the famous Golden Door, and down a lovely canyon one mile. We think you will feel repaid when the field bursts upon you.

Rosalind Sarver

● BAMBOOS

THE popularity of Oriental landscaping has brought bamboo into prominence and left many a gardener in a state of puzzlement over which of the varieties to choose. Bamboo, wonderfully compatible with the glass walls of modern homes, softens the glare of the sun with a lilting play of flickering leaves. Be sure to plant it where the constant fall of leaves and sheaths will pose no problem. (I still wonder if the author who recommended bamboos for indoor planting used a vacuum cleaner every day.)

In San Diego County, where even tender bamboos can be grown in the coastal areas, the plants have long been used for tropical effects. Along the Prado in Balboa Park, several large clumps of Giant Bamboo have graced the archways on the north for the past 40 years. Vigorous cutting has been needed to keep these huge growers in bounds, for this giant variety, with the solemn name of *Sinocalamus oldhami*, can reach 50 feet.

Fairly hardy and quite drought resistant when well started, it can be used as a handsome screen or wind-break, but is apt to rob nearby plants of sustenance. Another variety, Beechey Bamboo, the source of edible bamboo shoots, is not as tall as the Giant because its canes twist and spread.

I wish I had known about *Pseudosasa japonica*, commonly called Metake, before I planted my boxes. It is much neater than most bamboos, very hardy, and a rich, dark color. But *Phyllostachys aurea*, Golden Bamboo, was easy to find, so—tall, full and handsome—it fills my containers and delights me, until I behold the debris on the patio floor, like feathers from moulting birds.

A hardy bamboo of the Phyllostachys family is named for the sulfur color of its culms, but the most sought after of this group is the Black Bamboo, *P. nigra*. A runner, 10 to 20 feet tall, it is a fussy beauty whose ebony canes are worth the attention they need: some shade, plenty of moisture, good drainage and no touch of frost. When an expensive clump in my garden retreated instead of running, I put most of it back in a planter, leaving two shoots in the ground. For two years both plantings have balked, but this spring, big new culms are taking off on each. I have since learned that

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it takes three years for most bamboos to become established.

Sometime in his career every gardener falls for *Bambusa multiplex*, the Chinese Goddess Bamboo. It is a clump type, with graceful plummy canes that arch to 6 feet. It keeps its slender charm better in a container. Fernleaf Bamboo is a close kin but not quite so dainty.

My favorite *Bambusa multiplex* is Alphonse Karr, better known as Pink Stripe. A tall clump in the ground will branch into a willowy screen. When the new shoots start up in May, their deep pink-to-yellow culms, striped in green, are something to crow about. In time the pink fades to yellow, but the green streaks remain. Thin out old canes when the fresh colors of the new appear. These three bamboos are hardy to 20 degrees.

Just coming into the nurseries is *Bambusa ventricosa*, graphically called Buddha's Belly. When you see the curiously compressed and bulging internodes on some, not all, of the lower canes, you can understand the name. Conversational! A large grower of clumping habit, it is usually raised in tubs where the swelling culms are more noticeable.

Among the smaller bamboos is *Sasa palmata*, so named because its leaves spread 3 to 12 inches, like the extended fingers of a hand. Although a runner, its neat habits, handsome purplish stems and striking foliage make it ideal for terrace and poolside. Very hardy, too. Another charmer, *Sasa pygmaea*, is a real dwarf, under 10 inches. Never plant it out of a container. Its roots will go anywhere—under a half-ton rock, across an alley—nothing holds it back. *Sasa bumilis* is taller, averaging 3 feet, but it is a clump type that will not escape.

Until well established, bamboos need water, good drainage and food, especially if boxed. Make divisions when the plants are slightly dormant,

in early fall or spring. Cut the oldest canes to the ground when new growth is visible.

There are bamboos for many purposes. Select and use them for the refinement and tranquility they always bring to the garden scene.

Alice M. Clark



● HERBS

for LANDSCAPING

WITH the tremendous interest in gourmet food, the subject of using herbs in fine cuisine has been fairly well covered, but this is the time of year to consider them in terms of landscaping. Nothing is lovelier than the traditional herb garden, but the opportunities for using herbs as landscaping material are myriad: some are unequalled as ground covers, others as accent or border plants.

The blue-green leaves of the lavender, with its tall flower spikes, and the green of rosemary go together as they did in Elizabethan days. Costmary, the Bible marker of grandmother's day, is a beautiful gray, low-growing plant whose flowers resemble white marguerites. Costmary blooms better in the sun, but is lovely in shade grouped with tall, tropical angelica. In our garden angelica thrives only in a damp, poorly-drained spot in full shade.

Santolinas, either the gray or the green, are splendid perennial accent shrubs. The green santolina especially is always beautiful. When in bloom, usually from May to July, it is a mass of little yellow daisies. The remainder of the year it is an oval of bright green, feathery foliage. It belongs in an Oriental garden.

Rue is a tall shrubby perennial whose flowers are an unusual chartreuse green. Although its crushed leaves are endowed by tradition with the power to restore second sight, to me it brings a new meaning to the term "a rueful smile." No one in our family wants to prune it!

Pineapple sage has beautiful soft green foliage with spikes of truly scarlet flowers. Heavenly-scented lemon verbena is an effective background shrub with graceful growing habits. Its leaves are mint green.

Borage is a self-sowing annual which should be planted at the top of a slope; the lovely blue flowers droop and are best appreciated when seen from below. Lemon balm, with let-

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tuce-green foliage and neat appearance, is a refreshing accent in a succulent garden. The tansies, both the common and fringed, are effective either as background or accent plants.

The yarrows should never be forgotten; both the sulfur yellow and the red are extremely attractive with their ferny leaves and upright umbels of flowers. The tall gold yarrow is spectacular; it sometimes reaches a height of 5 or 6 feet, and the flowers when dried are without equal for arrangements.

Various herbs are unsurpassed as ground covers. Chamomile is charming and lovely, and fragrant underfoot. The Roman chamomile has thready, lacy leaves and small yellow, button-like flowers. It spreads well, clings to the soil, and thrives in full sun, especially in sandy soil. The beach and fringed wormwoods, with their silky gray foliage and loose panicles of small yellow flowers, make charming borders or ground covers.

Thymes are lovely in rock gardens or as ground covers anywhere. Woolly thyme grows close to the ground and has lovely lavender blossoms. Lemon thyme is a trailing variety with pink blooms and golden green leaves. In our garden it is at its prettiest in June. Caraway thyme loves sunny, sandy areas.

Prostrate rosemary is ever beautiful. It has a very strong root system and will flourish even on steep banks. The new growth of shiny bright needle-like foliage is especially attractive. The flowers of true blue are like tiny orchids. Rosemary can be pruned and trained to resemble a bonsai, or when allowed to grow freely, will make a lush cover in almost all soils. When established, rosemary flourishes like a native shrub.

Sweet woodruff, with its grass-green whorls and tiny white flowers like stars, is the most attractive ground cover for shady areas. *Ajuga reptans* also is very effective and has the advantages of easy propagation and fast growth.

Creeping germander is our favorite ground cover. Its foliage of bluish gray is covered with lavender flowers the greater part of the summer. Feathery and graceful, it will cascade over a wall or grow close to the ground. Creeping germander is not one of the toughest, but when treated with loving hands it is an inspiration the year 'round.

Try herbs for a gourmet touch in the landscape.

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A Survey

Plant Life of Quail Park

By Chauncy I. Jerabek

AS QUAIL PARK near Encinitas moves toward development as a botanic garden, it seems worthwhile to survey the basis in plant life on which it stands.

When funds become available, the Park will be surrounded by a fence. Then the work of labeling can go forward. Many specimens also will have to be moved: throughout the succulent area, plants are too crowded to develop naturally. In order to make a good display, about half the cacti, euphorbias, and some of the larger-growing aloes will need to be transplanted elsewhere.

This brief, non-descriptive listing will serve to reveal the scope of the present plant collection, and as a reference for the future.

Cacti

The uninformed person calls all succulents cacti, but a cactus is distinguished by seven characteristics: 1. Having two seed leaves. 2. Living more than one year. 3. Fruit a one-celled berry, without divisions. 4. Areoles or spine cushions. 5. Myriad stamens. 6. Ovary of the flower below the insertion of the petals. 7. Not dying after flowering.

There are several types of cacti at Quail Park, but I shall list only a few of the stronger, upright-growing varieties:

Cereus jamacaru, a large, much-branched kind from Brazil, very bluish when young; *C. peruvianus*, many tall stems making a sprawling clump; *C. peruvianus* var. *mon-*

strosus, a cristate; *C. validus*, a shrubby type from Argentina.

Lemaireocereus beneckeii, tall and many-branched, native of Mexico; and *L. marginata*, commonly called Organ Pipe; sends up tall, unbranched stems to 20 feet; often used in the poorer sections of Mexico as a living fence around homes.

Myrtillocactus geometrizans, many-branched, glaucous.

Cephalocereus leucocephalus, tall growing. *Pachycereus pringlei*, similar in looks to the giant cactus of Arizona; *P. chrysomallus*.

Trichocereus spachianus, called "Pearl of the Desert," from Argentina. Beautiful large white flowers open toward evening and stay open the following day.

Opuntia elongata, against the south wall of the main house; other varieties about the grounds.

Euphorbias

With few exceptions, these interesting succulents of the Euphorbia or Spurge family are natives of Africa or Madagascar.

Euphorbia ingens, with large, many-stemmed crown of four-angled branches, dominates this collection; *E. cooperi*, becomes 12-15 feet in height, branches deeply angled and lobed; *E. grandident*; *E. coerulescens*; *E. pseudocactus*; *E. mammillaris*; *E. canariensis*, spiny shrub, branching chiefly from the base; from the Canary Islands; *E. resinifera*; *E. tetragona*; *E. pentagona*.

Succulents of the Lily Family

Dracaena draco (CALIFORNIA GARDEN, Autumn 1958).

Samuela carnerosana (CALIFORNIA GARDEN, Autumn 1959).

Aloe bainesii, the tallest, to 30 feet; much-branched; *A. humilis* var. *echinata*, dwarf hedge hog, smallest type in the Park; *A. dyckiana*, of upright habit, as are *A. speciosa*, *A. arborescens*, *A. plicatilis*, *A. ferox*, *A. candelabrum*.

A. distans, lower growing, as are *A. eru*, *A. vera*, *A. saponaria*, *A. striata*, *A. sucotrina*, *A. cameroni* (in full sun, becomes a beautiful bronze color), *A. spinosissima*.

Agaves and other Succulents

Agave attenuata (Amaryllis family), *A. atrovirens*, *A. angustifolia*, *A. victoriae-reginae*.

Gasterias.

Manfreda maculosa.

Kleinia repens.

Portulacaria afra.

Crassula portulacacea, *C. multica*.

Cotyledon orbiculata, *C. orbiculata* var. *rotundifolia*.

Aeonium baworthii, *A. arboreum*, *A. arboreum* var. *atropurpurea*.

Sedum stahlii, *S. altissimum*.

Kalanchoe beharensis (formerly *Kitchingia mandrakensis*).

Bromelia fastuosa, Heart-of-Flame.

Pyra alpestris, bears attractive deep bluish-green flowers.

Mesembryanthemums

Dioscorea speciosa, showy bush type.

Glottiphyllum linguiforme, prostrate; large bright yellow flowers.

Eucalypts

Encalyptus rostrata, red gum; *E. cladocalyx*, sugar gum; *E. ficifolia*, scarlet flowering gum, one of the most striking of

flowering trees; *E. citriodora*, lemon-scented gum; two of the Mallee type: *E. macrocarpa* (Rose of the West), a shrub with tortuous branches and glaucous foliage, and the largest blossoms of any eucalypt; and *E. rhodantha*, bluish-silver foliage, flowers are pompons of pink stamens.

Acacias

Acacia decurrens, Green Wattle, delicate fern-like foliage and myriads of fluffy golden blossoms; *A. linifolia* var. *promiens*, upright tree with box-like foliage and numerous yellow flower clusters; *A. praxinifolia*, graceful shrub or small tree with tiny 4-sided leaves (phylloides), bright yellow flowers in globular heads; *A. verticillata*, a large spreading shrub with whorled leaves, easily mistaken for a conifer when not in bloom; *A. retinodes*, Water-wattle; *A. baileyana*, Cootamundra-wattle; *A. cultiriformis*, Knife-leaved or Plow-share wattle.

Fruit Trees

There are about a dozen kinds of fruit trees, the avocado being the most plentiful:

Eriobotrya japonica, Loquat.
Punica granatum, Pomegranate.
Psidium guajava, Lemon guava.
Annona cherimola, Cherimoya or Custard Apple.
Carissa grandiflora, Natal Plum.
Olea europaea, Common Olive.
Citrus paradisi, Grapefruit; *C. sinensis*, Orange; *C. nobilis* var. *deliciosa*, Tangerine; *C. limonia meyeri*, Lemon.
Limequat variety 'Eustis', a hybrid of the Limequat and the West Indian lime.
Macadamia integrifolia, edible nuts hang on the tree like clusters of grapes.

Other Trees

Arucaria excelsa, Star Pine; *A. bidwilli*, Bunya-Bunya.
Cunninghamia lanceolata, China Fir.
Pinus canariensis; *P. torreyana*.
Juniperus chinensis var. *torulosa*, Twisted Juniper.
Cupressus macrocarpa, Monterey Cypress.
Podocarpus macrophyllus, Yew Pine.
Erythrina caffra, *E. americana*, Coral Trees.
Jacaranda acutifolia, Green Ebony.
Sophora japonica, Pagoda-Tree.
Melia azedarach var. *umbraculiformis*, Texas Umbrella.
Arbutus unedo, Strawberry Tree.
Calodendrum capense, Cape Chestnut.
Callistemon riminalis, Weeping Bottle Brush.
Melaleuca armillaris, Bracelet Bottle Brush.
Spathodea campanulata, African Tulip Tree.
Leucadendron argenteum, Silver Tree, both male and female specimens.
Cinnamomum camphora, Camphor Tree.
Grevillea robusta, Silk Oak.
Pyrus kauakami, Evergreen Pear.
Ficus utilis, Zulu or Kaffir Fig; *F. nitida* (*F. retusa*), Laurel Fig; *F. mysorensis*.
Quercus suber, Cork Oak.

Palms and kindred plants

Arecastum romanoffianum (*Cocos plumosa*), Queen Palm.
Archontophoenix cunninghamiana (*Sequoia elegans*), King Palm.
Butia capitata, Jelly Palm.
Erythea edulis, Guadalupe Palm; *E. armata*, Mexican Blue Palm.

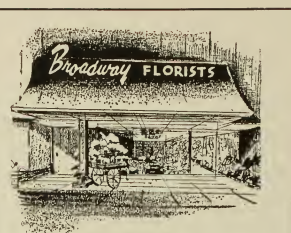
Phoenix roebeleni, Pigmy Palm.
Howea forsteriana, Kentia or Sentry Palm.
Washingtonia filifera, native California Fan Palm.
Strelitzia nicotai, Giant Bird-of-Paradise.
Philodendron sellowiana, Love-Tree.
Ceratostamia longifolia, a plant from Mexico belonging to the Cycad family.
Cossonia capensis, Aralia family.

Shrubs

Abutilon speciosum, *A. megapotamicum* variegatum, Flowering Maple.
Antyllis barba-jovis, Jupiter's Beard.
Bauhinia galpini, Nasturtium Orchid.
Cassia nairobensis, Peanut-butter Cassia.
Carissa carandas, Karanda.
Cistus corbariensis, Rock Rose.
Calliandra aequilata, Red Powder Puff.
Caesalpinia echinata, Brazil-Wood.
Convolvulus cneorum, Bush Morning Glory.
Duranta repens, Sky Flower or Golden Dew Drop; *D. stenostachya*, Pigeon-Berry.
Elaeagnus pungens, Silver Leaf.
Escallonia argentea, Canudo de pito.
Eugenia myrtifolia compacta, Brush Berry.
Grewia occidentalis, Four Corners.
Grevillea lanigera, Woolly Grevillea.
Hibiscus rosa-sinensis 'San Diego Red', Rose Mallow.
Ilex aquifolium, English Holly; *I. cornuta*, Chinese Holly; *I. cornuta* 'Burford', Hybrid Chinese Holly.
Ligustrum lucidum, Glossy Privet.
Leonotis leonurus, Lion's-tail.
Mitchella fuscata, Banana Shrub.
Myrsine africana, Boxwood.
Osteomeles anthyllidifolia, Uhi-Uhi.
Pittosporum eugenioides, Tarata Pittosporum.
Poinciana gilliesii, Bird-of-Paradise Bush.
Pyraecantha gruberi, Firethorn.
Plumbago capensis, Leadwort.
Raphiolepis ovata, Yeddo Hawthorn.
Stenolobium stans, Yellow elder.
Tecomaria sibirica, Humming-Bird Honeysuckle; *T. capensis*, Cape Honeysuckle.
Tibouchina semidecandra, Glory Bush or Princess Flower.
Viburnum suspensum, an evergreen shrub with oval leaves and white flowers slightly tinged with pink.

Other exotic plants to be recorded

Adiantum, Maidenhair Fern.
Acanthus mollis, Bear's Breech.
Amaryllis belladonna, Resurrection Lily.
Azorella aculeata, A. 'Copper King'.
Cyperus bispans viviparus, Miniature Umbrella Plant.
Echium fastuosum, Pride-of-Madeira.
Dimorphotheca ecklonis, Cape Marigold.
Felicia amelloides, Blue Marguerite.
Fuchsias, Mixed varieties.
Lavandula officinalis, Lavender.
Limonium latifolium, Sea-lavender.
Miscanthus sinensis, Eulalia.
Moraea iridoides, Wild-iris.
Oxalis bowleana var. *alba*, Wood-Sorrel.
Polygonum capitatum, Fleecy-flower, an attractive ground cover.
Ruta graveolens, Common rue.
Rosmarinus officinalis var. 'Prostrate', Creeping Rosemary.
Santolina chamaecyparissus, Lavender-cotton.
Tritonia crocata, Montbretia.
Vinca major, Creeping Periwinkle.
Watsonia, mixed.
Zantedeschia aethiopica, Calla Lilly.



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Plant Life of Quail Park . . .

Vines

Surrounding the formal garden are a few vines:

Ficus pumila, Clinging or Creeping Fig.
Hedera helix, English Ivy.
Phaedranthus buccinatorius, Blood Trumpet Vine, near the doorway of dwelling.

Original Natives

Adenostoma fasciculatum, Greasewood.
Arctostaphylos glauca, Manzanita.
Artemisia californica, Black Sage.
Ceanothus verrucosus, Snowball lilac.
Cneoridium dumosum, Bush Rue or Spice Bush.
Echinocystis fabacea, Big Root or Wild-cucumber.
Heteromeles arbutifolia, Toyon or California holly.
Rhus laurina, Laurel sumac; *R. integrifolia*, Lemonade-berry.
Quercus dumosa, Scrub-oak.
Mimulus cardinalis, Scarlet Monkey Flower.
Yucca mohavensis.

Introduced Natives

Ceanothus cyaneus, Lakeside lilac, an outstanding shrub with masses of large, deep blue clusters of flowers in spring, and occasional smaller ones throughout the year;
C. griseus, Seaciff lilac, a purple variety.
Romneya coulteri, Matilija poppy, crepe-textured flowers of pure glistening white with deep yellow centers.
Yucca whipplei, Our Lord's candle, a plant with long, narrow, sharp-pointed glaucous leaves; flower stalk 6-8 feet in height, the upper part covered with creamy-white, pendulous flowers.

Gone native throughout the Park is a very attractive, old time annual, *Linaria maroccana*, called Toad-flax. Growing about one foot in height, the small spikes are covered with dainty snapdragon-like flowers in shades of crimson and gold, pink, mauve, blue, chamois and rose, blotched with different shades on the lip. Although there are many costlier plants in the garden this dainty plant seems to attract everyone's attention.

The section where the natives are now growing will be left as a bird sanctuary.

50 YEARS AGO

in CALIFORNIA GARDEN

June, 1912—San Diegians have always been willing to concede that Portland should be able to produce good roses on account of the short season . . . , but a man from that city, who attended the rose show here, said "Portland would go crazy, if they could raise such roses . . ."

July, 1912—A pretty custom which seems to be growing in favor in San Diego is the giving of floral baskets, emblems, bouquets and designs to one's competitor or friend upon the occasion of a change of location.

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BOOK TOURS

Conducted by Alice W. Heyneman

Four Sunset Books

Garden Art and Decoration. Lane Book Co., Menlo Park, 1962. 96 pages. \$1.75.

If you want to know all about lighting your garden, or decorating it with pots, bird baths, feeders, pebble mosaics, fish pools, driftwood, overhead sun canopies or decorative paving—here is your book. It is amazing how much information and how many pictures can be packed into 96 pages.

For the craft enthusiast here are step by step directions for all sorts of projects: furniture to make and use outdoors, panels, sculpture; "be as fanciful as you wish!" the authors urge. One thing leads to another: a discussion of materials and shapes for pools leads naturally to one on kinds of fish, to underwater plants for their pleasure; then to priming the pump for a small waterfall.

The chapter on lighting is as comprehensive as a photography manual. The relative values of flood lighting, spot lighting, back lighting, and silhouetting are gone into, followed by the mechanical side: electrical systems to luau torches to tree lanterns. The *Sunset* people have even included a chapter on parties—summer or Christmas—and how to decorate the garden for them. The usable ideas in this little book are endless, and of the widest possible appeal.

The Art of Flower Preservation. By Geneal Condon. Lane Book Co., Menlo Park, 1962. 64 pages. \$1.95.

How to preserve flowers at the peak of their garden freshness is presented with the most detailed instructions. The formulas for the sand and coloring used, for strengthening and ultimate preservation, are expounded step by careful step. The longest chapter is a "Flower Preserver's Encyclopedia" covering 12 pages of selected plant materials; all details of preparing bright and happy-looking arrangements are included.

Mrs. Condon is admittedly an enthusiast at her craft, as well as a professional and a teacher. "I doubt if there are many hobbies," she says, "that touch such a variety of challenging fields: gardening (which could in-

clude hybridizing and landscaping), chemistry, physics, designing, botany, flower arranging, and more." Her own greatest enthusiasm seems to be for cactus flowers, which she says are greatly improved in beauty by her drying method. "What was originally satin becomes a luminous chiffon," she writes.

How to Grow and Use Annuals.

Lane Book Co., Menlo Park, 1962. 80 pages. \$1.95.

This is a typical *Sunset* Book, and a good one, delivering the comprehensive exposition of its subject that one expects of a new book in this series. The editors have combined their own extensive knowledge with up-to-the-minute information from further experts in the field. The result is a fine, workmanlike book for the lover and grower of annuals—I suspect this takes in a vast segment of the population.

The sowing of seed, the use of color in bedding and in landscaping are discussed at some length. A special treatment, with handsome color plates, is given a selected list of frequently used plants; this section includes culture, varieties, use, pests to watch for, and so on. A general alphabetical listing covers the remaining annuals at less length but with answers to all necessary questions.

How to Grow African Violets. Revised. By Carolyn Rector. Lane Book Co., Menlo Park, 1962. 64 pages. \$1.75.

After many printings, "African Violets" has been brought completely up to date in this third edition. Mrs. Rector is assuredly tops in her field: she is the author of the definitive list of African violet varieties, many her own introductions, as published by the national society.

Propagation, primarily from leaf cuttings, and the growing on in pots, are made by Mrs. Rector to seem both fascinating and easy. She discusses watering (methods as well as amounts), light, temperature, soil mixtures, humidity and fertilizers. The things that can go wrong—and what to do about them—are given a chapter. Lest it all look too easy, growing from seed and hybridizing are outlined for the more ambitious.

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A Calendar

• ROSES



of Care

THANKS to the rainy winter that finally arrived, gardens in general are at their best in years. This writer's first love, roses, have performed in an amazing manner. The greatly desired basal breaks have come out in generous numbers; foliage and blooms have exceptionally fine quality and color. The north rose bed in Balboa Park is a case in point. That particular bed is being cared for this year by the San Diego Rose Society. It is a fine example of what proper culture, aided by rain-leached soil, can achieve.

By this time the thick mulch in your rose beds has broken down into the top soil and is far too thin to protect fine feeder roots from summer heat. Add another 2 or 3 inches of a good organic material along with some additional nitrogen. Your roses will thank you by blooming and blooming during the summer and fall months. Of course, continue to feed a balanced rose food once a month. Use the locally produced rose foods which are formulated for San Diego soils. Now is also an excellent time to summer "prune." Some varieties of roses are prone to growing what is called blind wood: a stem without a bloom. If the blind wood is twiggy, remove it altogether. However, should it be of fair size, cut back to a strong, outside leaf node and you will have a stem with a bloom in about six weeks.

A reminder—water deeply before feeding or spraying your roses. Plants at saturation will not suffer burning in either case.

A warning—keep that bottle of miticide handy! Lush weed growth brought out by the rain is drying up. Red spider and thrip must eat, and what better menu than your prize roses.

Now, if your roses have not been outstanding, there must be a reason. Quite possibly your particular soil has locked up the important, needed minerals. A soil analysis will give the answer. Your nursery can have your soil analyzed for a very reasonable fee (\$1). Should your soil need "unlocking," ask your nurseryman for "Green-Up." This is a very new, very effective combatant for chlorosis.

Have you seen this year's new roses in bloom? They are out-of-this-world! Some of your neighbors probably have them and would welcome your visit to their garden. Canned roses at your nursery should be in bloom, too. Another excellent place to see all of the roses, as well as other flowers, is at the County Fair at Del Mar. The San Diego Rose Society maintains an exhibit at the Fair. "Shows" are held every other day, starting the first day, with different varieties and species each day.

It is hoped that your rose garden is doing as well as ours this year. If not, a membership in the Rose Society and regular attendance at meetings will teach you how to get the most from your roses.

Nettie B. Trott
SD Rose Society

RAMBLINGS: did you get a chance to see the wonderful arrangement section in the San Diego Orchid Show? It certainly showed the possibilities open to us for using orchids in arrangements; quite an incentive to do our best as growers so we will have orchids to work with ourselves.

The next four months are the height of the cymbidium growing season. The aim is to grow that small, new growth into the biggest, fattest bulb you can imagine. Only a strong, fully-matured growth is able to initiate a flower spike. Food, light and water are essential for blooms next year. Light is very important to the growth of the plant. The more light the plant gets, the more water it will need. The more light and water, the more often you can feed. As a rule, feed every two weeks with a well balanced fertilizer. Be sure to leach out the pot every third or fourth watering. The term "leach" means to run excess water into the pot, flushing out salts that have accumulated from water and fertilizer. Remember "light, water, and food" are the three magic words.

Going to orchid shows in Arcadia and Santa Barbara gave me a chance to visit scores of orchid ranges, both commercial and amateur, that are growing cymbidiums. I have come to this conclusion—there is no standard potting medium and no standard growing program. Each one has adapted the ways-and-means to his own location and needs. An inert, open potting mix seems to be preferred by those who are able to check daily on the requirements of their plants. The week-end gardeners turn to a potting medium tailored to suit their individual needs, usually a more closed mix that requires water less often, sometimes with food value in the mix itself.

Those fortunate enough to be located in the cool, moist coastal region are growing cymbidiums in shade houses made of woven saran. The larger establishments are using huge fans to insure good air circulation. Those growers located inland have to use controlled glass houses, heating in winter and cooling during the hot summer. They too use fans: theirs pull air through wet pads to add moisture to the circulated air. This points up the fact that cymbidiums want a

good circulation of moist air. The other fact I came up with: to insure blooming, there should be a 20 degree difference between winter and summer temperatures.

The San Diego, Southland and Santa Barbara orchid shows, held just a week apart, have all merged into one in my mind. Noticeable in all three shows, however, was the increasing number of miniature cymbidiums. These small versions of the standard cymbidium are becoming more popular all the time. A few miniatures have been around for quite awhile, but only in the last five years have people become aware of their individual charm. Not only the flowers but the plants themselves are small in scale. A blooming size plant can be grown in a 5 to 6 inch pot. This means you can always find room for one in your lath house. At last count I had 23 plants on a bench of less than 10 square feet. I grow them under the same conditions as my standard cymbidiums and have better luck in blooming the miniatures. Why not try one yourself?

Betty Newkirk
SD County Orchid Society



● FUCHSIAS

FUCHSIAS are so easy to propagate and grow that they are often neglected: we tend to forget that they need much care, or will respond to it particularly. It is especially gratifying to see what quick and rewarding results they produce with anything like proper care and attention.

Regular and generous watering and feeding (they are rather voracious), plenty of light, partial shade, and careful pest control should insure lush, vigorous growth, and profuse and beautiful blooms. June or early July should bring the peak of early blooming, and after rest periods, there may be good blooming cycles on through to late fall. The fuchsia lover need never be entirely without blooming plants, as is often the case with short-season flowers, even in California.

The type of fuchsia, of course, should be decided at time of purchase or propagation: that is, bush, tree, basket, etc., according to the needs or fancies of each individual gardener. Having chosen the named variety best suited to your need, following advice from a good fuchsia nursery, pinch,



Drawing by Alfred C. Hottes

ROLAND HOYT* RECOMMENDS

Berberis darwini

THE evergreen *Berberis darwini* is the showiest of the barberry clan. It has also been one of the most temperamental and elusive so far as performance in Southern California is concerned. It grows in fountain-like shape, rigid, sharply barbed, widely spreading if well maintained. The handsome, crisp, holly-like leaves are a glossy dark green, with bronzy tones in winter. Occasional dying leaves fleck the shrub with crimson throughout the year.

In early spring, clusters of orange-yellow flowers appear thickly along the branches, and keep coming, so that a well situated plant culturally will maintain some considerable color over the entire year. The blue to purple-dusted berries which follow the blooms are a prime exhibit and last into winter in generous, full-rounded masses.

This barberry will grow to 10 or 12 feet in height, but then becomes thin and leggy. Intelligent pruning is

quite important in retaining its natural vigor with a pleasing shape and texture to take advantage of the bright highlights of leaves and contrasting depths beneath. A plant that has been allowed full rein may be cut back heavily or even to the ground, if done in spring as activity in growth begins. It also makes a fine natural hedge, requiring only occasional pruning.

Berberis darwini wants an extra-moist situation where a large surplus of water can work away gradually, in about three-quarters shade. A plant well conditioned for winter will take 15 degrees or more of frost. In Southern California it will be better grown in coastal regions. It is understandable why so few specimens are to be seen, because of the difficulty in finding just the right set of conditions. This can be overcome by a little more serious trial, and persistent personal request at the nursery . . . they will grow it if you want it. Let it be known that it is one of the most handsome plants to be found around in garden or landscape.

*Member, ASLA, author of *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions*.

prune or shape it as early as possible, to conform to the desired type, and keep it that way through repeated attention.

Container gardening, which seems more and more popular, is especially suitable for these plants, as there are more bright and striking possibilities with baskets and pots of fuchsias than most other flowers. They may be moved about for better light or temperature to promote more pleasing

growth, as well as different designs or effects in the garden. But unless the container is encased in moss to conserve moisture, it should be checked daily for watering needs.

In this so-called semi-desert area, watering is perhaps the most important part of care. Follow through with regular, thorough spraying, strong enough (applied also to the under side of leaves) to dislodge small pests, and occasional leaching to avoid accumula-

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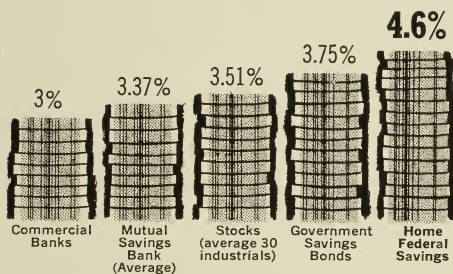
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tion of salts. Some arrangement for fogging, or mist-moistening of the air, is needed in hot, dry weather here also.

For feeding, a good fish-emulsion base fertilizer may be applied every two to four weeks, depending upon strength and the plant's needs, with the addition of a good commercial fertilizer twice a year. One successful California hybridizer uses Blue Whale, or Blue Whale peat moss, as fertilizer with most amazing results, but whatever works best for your other plants may do equally well for fuchsias. Never try to feed a dry plant.

Fuchsias are considered relatively free from disease, but the plant pests in this area that occasionally affect them are aphids, mealy-bugs, mites or spiders, thrip and white flies.

Of the several sprays and insecticides at most nurseries recommended for these pests, Toxaphene is mentioned for aphids, mites, red spider and even thrip, although Pyrethrum extract with petroleum oil was most effective on thrip in some tests. White flies, if allowed to get to the adult stage, are hard to control even with such sprays. The gardener who gives these plants the good watering and feeding needed to keep them growing vigorously should have comparatively little trouble with pests.

This is a good time to brighten up any garden with some colorful hanging baskets in the new light shades, placed in eye-catching spots here and there. But remember that fuchsias don't like windy places.

Morrison W. Doty
SD Fuchsia Society



• DAHLIAS

FROM now until the latter part of July is an important time for the production of good dahlias. Whether the gardener is caring for a few or a large number of plants, and whether he wants flowers for cutting or exhibition, special care is needed now.

First, topping is important. This, incidentally, is true of most flowering plants. Nipping out the top of each plant makes it bush out more, sending out more canes, or stems, to produce more flowers. Topping the dahlia plant also results in a better root system: the plant is forced to send out more roots to feed the larger bush.

If the larger varieties are permitted to grow without topping, they produce

one crown bloom, but may delay sending out other canes to bear more flowers. Even though some of the canes should be removed later as they appear, topping still is desirable.

Most of the large varieties produce the best and the largest flowers if the plant is restricted to four or five canes at a time. Medium varieties—flowers of 6 to 8 inches—should be held to about six canes at a time. The smaller varieties may be permitted to send out all the canes possible—after topping.

Topping is performed by snapping out, pinching, or cutting out the top immediately above the uppermost pair of leaves desired. Only two sets of leaves should remain on the plant of the largest varieties (more than 8-inch flowers). Three sets should remain on the mediums, and three or four pairs on the smaller varieties, including poms. If smallness, and more-and-more flowers, is his desire, the gardener might wish to repeat the "topping" process by snapping off the tips of two or more of the canes.

When the top of the dahlia plant—and most other kinds of flowers—is removed, a shoot (cane) appears at each leaf node. If the cane is nipped, additional sprouts appear at each leaf juncture on the cane, and so on, as long as the process is continued and the plant is as bushy as desired.

Each cane permitted to grow will produce three buds. Two of these should be removed to produce good medium and large dahlias. Normally, the center bud should remain, but if it is damaged, remove it and let one of the other two remain. The stem of a flower growing from the side bud will be a little longer, and the period required for the bloom to open will be two to four or five days longer.

Disbudding of the smaller varieties and poms sometimes is desirable for better exhibition flowers, and especially for better stems bearing only one flower each.

The gardener wanting only flowers for color in the yard will have more blooms, not of the best quality, if he disbuds even the larger varieties sparingly, after topping.

Blossoms should be removed when they wilt so the plant will continue to produce. The same care should be used as in cutting the flowers to keep; cut each cane just above the pair of leaves closest to the stalk. Two fresh canes for more flowers then will appear at the node.

In addition to topping and disbudding, dahlias need to be fed, wa-

tered and sprayed for insects during this period. Feeding should be about once each four weeks with 4-10-10 fertilizer (or, bulb food is okay). The plants need water regularly, too, each time the top soil seems dry. By spraying once a week with an all-purpose insecticide, or malathion, insects will be discouraged.

Larry Sisk
SD County Dahlia Society



• BEGONIAS

FROM now until late fall should be the time to really enjoy your shade garden. Repotting should have been finished, as well as the trimming and shaping of the plants, and the spot in the garden for each particular plant should have been selected and filled, so only routine care for the grower remains.

Under "routine" we can list watering, which *could* be required daily—keep your begonias moist but not wet. It might be well to incorporate quarter-strength plant food with the watering on the same day of each week.

Routine also means keeping a wary eye out for damage by pests and disease, and taking corrective or preventive measures.

Your plants will be actively growing, so an occasional repotting will be necessary, unless they are in the ground. Being a bit pot-bound seems to agree with begonias in general, but if a plant appears to be unable to retain enough moisture, the possibility of the roots being *too* crowded should be investigated and the condition corrected, using a light porous potting mix.

Naturally, your activity in the garden depends a great deal upon the weather. Hot-dry weather means more watering than hot-humid weather. Do not assume, however, that overcast skies mean an extremely humid condition. If you are not vigilant, plants can dry out in cloudy weather as well as in sunny weather.

Be careful when spraying for insect and disease control that a hot-dry condition does not kill or damage the plants as well as the pests.

The damp conditions that your plants love provide the conditions that slugs and snails love, also, so watch for these pests and "murder" them by any means at hand—one of the most effective being a foot properly placed.

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With the routine established you should have a little time to visit and enjoy the gardens of other growers, and have the others in to enjoy yours.

Visit the flower shows, especially the one at the San Diego County Fair, and your area nurseries to acquire and try some of the new varieties.

A garden is a growing thing—quantity-wise as well as quality-wise—so Grow!

Margaret M. Lee

● **CAMELIAS**

CAMELIAS are a boon to those who occasionally like to take time out in spring and summer for seasonal pursuits such as baseball, fishing, and short vacations. Growth does not get out of bounds readily, the period between waterings may be stretched without dire consequences, and a 60-day interval between applications of fertilizer is easy to cope with.

These observations refer to the care of established plants, of course; not to the rooting of cuttings or the care of grafts.

This is a wonderful season for enjoying the garden instead of being its slave. In a surprise reaction, many camellia enthusiasts prove that gardening is actually a labor of love. They treat freedom from routine chores as an opportunity to add new plants.

New and ever popular favorites of the southland camellia belt include Hawaii, Cara Mia, Disneyland, Alice Wood, Guest of Honor, Giulio Nuccio, and Crimson Robe.

Hawaii, a very large peony-form sport of C. M. Wilson, is a rich blend

of pink and white. Plants are compact, yet vigorous.

Cara Mia, a deep pink semi-double, blooms prolifically. Flowers, medium to medium-large, stand out against dark green foliage on an upright plant.

Disneyland, a 1961 introduction, is a deep pink or light red, anemone-form flower classed as very large (over 5 inches in diameter).

Alice Wood, another very large flower, is a formal double, dark red in color. Like Hawaii, it is a spectacular corsage bloom.

Guest of Honor is a salmon pink, semi-double to peony-form bloom of large size—winner of the Margaret Hertrich Award in 1954 and the Frank Williams Award in 1955. Plants are vigorous, compact, and of upright growth habit.

Giulio Nuccio is described as coral rose pink, very large, semi-double with irregular petals—winner of the American Camellia Society's John Illges Medal in 1959 and the Margaret Hertrich Award in 1955.

The foregoing are all Camellia japonicas, but Crimson Robe is of the *Reticulata* species. Tatachung, its Chinese name, means Great Peach Blossom. Carmine red, it is very large, semi-double with wavy, crinkled, crepe-textured petals. Of spreading growth, it is vigorous but much less compact than the japonicas.

While the care of camellias is not exacting at this season, outdoor plants, other than those in containers, should be watered once a week. Extra care should be given any recently planted.

Watch for aphids and scale on new growth. Most garden dusts for ornamentals will quickly control aphids, but scale may require a liquid spray such as malathion. Two applications, a week apart, are recommended.

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bait should be scattered over the mulch after watering.

Your first application of fertilizer for the season should have been made in March or early April. A second application should be made 60 days later. If, at the start of the season, you used an inorganic commercial product especially prepared for camellias and azaleas, you may safely use either the same product or cottonseed meal for the second round, following directions on the package. On the other hand, if cottonseed meal or an organic product was first used, be extra cautious if you plan to switch to a quick-acting inorganic fertilizer for the second round. In this case, reduce the recommended application by a third. Organics are slow to break down and release their nutrients to plants, so that following an organic with an inorganic can cause plant damage by making too much nitrogen available to the plant at one time.

Clive N. Pillsbury
SD Camellia Society

Fungus Threat To Walnuts

Walnut trees in California are threatened by a soil fungus disease called crown rot, scientists of the University of California at Davis report. Both black walnut and English walnut on black rootstock are affected.

Protective action requires digging out around the base of the tree to expose the lower trunk and the upper main roots. This will prevent invasion by the fungus or stop the disease, if it hasn't spread too far. The hole can then be filled with stones or coarse gravel, thus avoiding a dangerous low spot in the garden, but allowing the lower trunk and main roots to dry out between irrigations. The hole might extend three or four feet out from the trunk and down a foot or more on a large, old tree.

If crown rot has already invaded the roots, it will show as black or brownish patches extending through the bark. The soil should be removed until all the diseased area is exposed. Digging out may save even severely diseased trees if the fungus has not spread more than half way around the trunk, according to UC scientists.

An increasing number of growers report favorable results with plastic pots. Cuttings in plastic reportedly have rooted up to three times faster than those in pots of other materials.

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Moreton Bay Fig Tree (*Ficus macrophylla*)

NATURE'S NOOK

... Sidelights
on the world of plants

Fabulous Figs

By Donald Betts

THE genus *Ficus* comprises a remarkable group of plants in the Mulberry family. It is a large genus, consisting of over 600 species, native in warm and tropical countries in many parts of the world.

Included in it are many of the wonders of the vegetable kingdom. For example, there is *Ficus benghalensis*, better known as the banyan tree, which sends down aerial roots that make trunks and thus extend the top of a single tree over immense areas. The famous banyan under which Alexander the Great once camped is said to have sheltered 7000 men. This plant now measures more than 2000 feet in circumference and has three thousand trunks. Yet, it is said to have started life as a chance seed dropped by a bird!

Many of the *Ficus* group do not take to cold weather, but a number of species do quite well in the warmer areas of Southern California, especially in coastal sections.

First of all, there is our deciduous fruit tree, *Ficus carica*, the fig. This is a very sturdy small tree or spreading shrub, drought and disease and pest resistant. A beautiful plant when in leaf and a striking one when bare in the winter. Furthermore, it bears heavy crops of fine fruit year in and year out.

Then there is *Ficus elastica*, or the rubber plant, the well-known, almost too well-known, potted plant of home, hotel, and conservatory. This plant does indeed produce rubber when tapped, but there are other plants used more successfully for this purpose. The main reason for the propagation of *F. elastica* by the millions is to grace homes and offices with its thick dark rubbery leaves.

Next comes *Ficus pumila*, sometimes known as *Ficus repens*, a small-leaved vine used for generations to cling to wide expanses of wall, where it forms vast and beautifully exact mosaic-like curtains of greenery. I have seen a splendid example of this covering on a long, high brick wall in a green house at the famous Shaw gardens in St. Louis. It will grow exceedingly well for us here outdoors in shaded and partly shaded places.

Another striking species of the *Ficus* group, used indoors and in protected places outdoors in our area, is the massive Fiddle-leaf fig, *Ficus pandurata*, dark and upright, with stiff, papery leaves shaped like the bodies of small violins. And going to the opposite extreme, there is the dainty *Ficus benjamina*, or the weeping banyan. This delightful plant forms a small weeping tree or a large shrub, doing best in somewhat sheltered places. It is a par-

ticularly lovely plant, I think, with glossy green clusters of leaves like shoals of fishes seen through shining depths of clear water. An excellent plant for a sheltered doorway, a shady patio corner, an elegant spot beneath a wide eave.

Going now to something on a larger scale, we find *Ficus retusa*, or Indian Laurel fig. This plant grows to be a very beautiful, clean and sturdy tree, with smallish oval leaves, dark green and glossy. A medium-sized tree for the lawn or patio, for shade and ornament. It does exceptionally well in our area, if not in too cold or too cramped a spot.

Stepping up a bit in size again, we come to *Ficus rubiginosa*, with strong leaves to 4 inches or so long, oval-shaped, rich green above and delightfully hairy beneath. A dense and much-branched tree, with its many twigs chocolate-gray in color, and its shiny leaves hanging down sedately. There is also a variegated form of this plant, with leaves generally a little smaller, pale yellow beneath, green and yellow above, to give a striking effect in the garden, if placed in the right position.

Going up the scale once more, we arrive at a larger leaf and a larger tree: *Ficus macrophylla*, the Moreton Bay fig. Here we have thick, tough leaves approaching the size and shape of the old southern magnolia. A dense, handsome tree, very wide-spreading, with ultimately an immense mass of surface roots writhing over the ground like the arms of an octopus. There are splendid large specimens of this plant to be seen in San Diego and La Jolla. And in Santa Barbara there is a huge specimen, near the railway station, which was planted in the 1870s and has now attained majestic proportions.

A step higher in leaf size are two species of *Ficus* with unusually large leaves somewhat like those of the rubber plant mentioned above. These are *Ficus mysorensis* and *Ficus utilis* (or *F. nekbudu*). These plants do well outdoors in our warmer coastal areas, and although stiff in a way, they have their beauty and their place. They are very clean trees, and stand out in a dark, exotic way that commands attention and respect.

Two more members of this unusual genus of plants, both of which grow readily here if handled properly in the right environment, remain to be ticked off.

The first is *Ficus religiosa*, the sacred Bo Tree or Peepul Tree of India and Burma. At Anuradhapura in Ceylon is an ancient specimen of this plant

said to be the oldest historical tree known to the world. It was carried as a young plant from India to Ceylon in 288 B.C., and a part of it is still flourishing today! This remarkable species does quite well here in sun or in part shade. It is a many-branched tree with heart-shaped leaves ending in odd, very elongated points. These curious leaves have a rich green color and are deeply veined with yellow. They hang down in such a way as to give a curtain-like effect, adding a touch of mystery and reverence to this ancient tree.

LAST on our list, and one of the oddest of all these odd plants, is *Ficus roxburghii*. This strange being from the vegetable world of India grows into either a low spreading tree or a great bush, depending on how it is handled. The leaves are very broad, almost circular, to 15 inches long and a foot wide. They look like paddles, or greenish one-dimensional balloons. They seem to hang rather awkwardly at the ends of stiff, tawny twigs, which go out almost at right angles to the central stems. These strange leaves are particularly beautiful in their rich veining, their glossy sheen above and hairiness below. The older leaves are a clear green, the young ones a wonderful silvery-chocolate. Set in the right place in our gardens, and caught in the right light, nothing could appear more weird and fantastic.

Well, there they are, these members of the genus *Ficus*, or rather, a goodly number of them. One of the best things about them is that we are free to take our choice, for almost without exception the species listed above are available, plantable, and usable in one or another of our warmer outdoor locations. Thus with little trouble we are able to bring an exciting touch of the gorgeous East to our own doorway. A tantalizing thought! And a tantalizing, haunting group of plants, when you come to think of it, these fabulous figs.

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Vroman's	20
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Potpourri

. . . people, places, products in the news

• Will It Grow?

As the summer growing season begins, one group of South Clairemont residents is paying more than usual attention to the canyon behind their homes. With their eye on the 80 trees they planted in January, they are hoping that city government is watching, too.

The site is a 35-acre double canyon at the end of Fairfield Street, bounded by Milton, Grandview and Jellett Streets. Virtually the last open space remaining in South Clairemont, it had been rejected as a park site because of steep terrain and difficult access. The residents argued that they and the city were talking about different kinds of park: that canyons, as ready-made park lands, do not need development under the "greensward" concept to be useful and attractive.

A year ago, Citizens Coordinate agreed to back the residents in a practical demonstration. Mrs. Marston Sargent of South Clairemont was appointed Project Chairman. She outlined five steps in reclaiming such canyons:

1. Removal of trash and prohibition of future dumping.
2. Ground cover for eroded or bulldozed slopes.
3. Fire protection.
4. Elimination of undesirable brush and encouragement of picturesque types of native shrubbery.
5. Occasional planting of tough, drought-resistant trees.

The pilot project got off to a blazing start last June 10 when a neighborhood brigade, aided by city trash and fire trucks, scraped the canyon-side clean of debris. In July the Park and Recreation Commission made a field trip to the site.

For the next six months, Mrs. Sargent and her committee lined up support for a tree-planting day. Boy Scout Troops 76 and 170 agreed to dig holes, and Troop 170 to water; Pioneer Congregational Church, which stands on a peninsula jutting into the canyon, promised water; Presidio and Garden Town Nurseries gave some trees and provided the remainder at cost.

January 20 was a day of drizzling rain, but the 80 eucalyptus, California and Brazilian pepper, and Monterey

cypress trees went into the ground on schedule. Now the residents are watching—if the trees grow, will the idea behind them grow, too?

• Gardener's Conference

A convention for San Diego gardeners is scheduled for 8 p.m., July 26 at Hoover High School Auditorium. The event, sponsored by the San Diego Chapter, California Association of Nurserymen, will offer a broad range of information about new products and ideas through lectures, slide programs and demonstrations.

Local CAN President Frank Antonicelli expects to include in the program representatives of the city park department and Department of Agriculture, as well as garden writers, nurserymen and suppliers. Numerous drawings for merchandise prizes will add a holiday air to the meeting.

• Blooming Balboa Park

June

Alcazar Garden—Zinnias
Botanical Building — Gloxinias, Hydrangeas, Calceolarias
Formal Garden (north of Natural History Museum)—Roses
Pershing Drive & Redwood — Jacaranda trees
El Prado — Hydrangeas, Begonias, Magnolias, Calceolarias
Lily Pool—Water lilies
Mall—Petunias and Ageratum

July

Alcazar Garden—Zinnias
Botanical Building — Rubra lilies, Tuberous Begonias
Formal Garden—Roses, Zinnias, Dahlias, Cannas

• New Podocarpus

Watch the nurseries for a new podocarpus. *Podocarpus alata*, an Australian native, is new to the trade this year. It becomes a large tree and grows in tiered form, somewhat on the order of the Star Pine (*Araucaria excelsa*). Its foliage resembles that of *P. macrophyllus*, the Yew Pine, with the significant difference that new foliage is a brilliant red instead of lime green.

250,000 Plants Add To Center's Beauty At CG

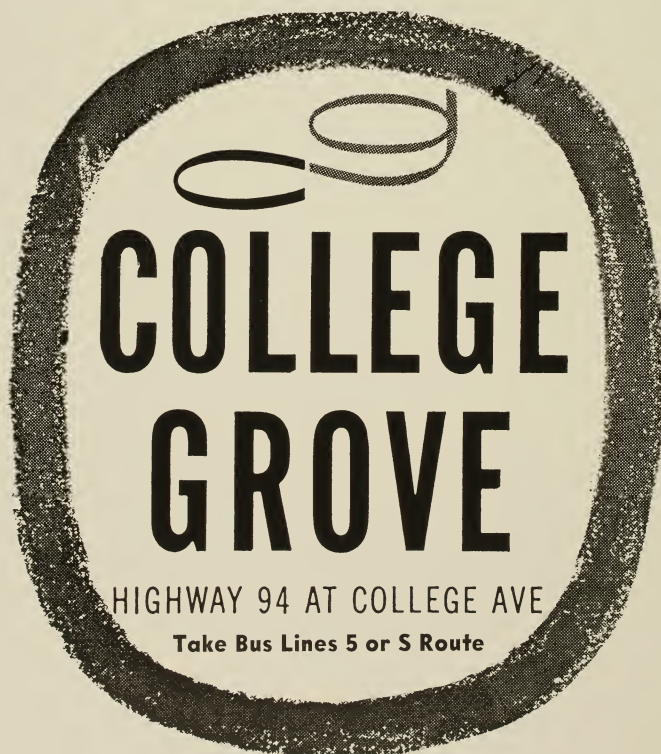
More than a quarter million trees, shrubs, ferns, flowers and other plant materials ranging from the diminutive blue violet to 90 ft. palms, adds beauty and dignity to College Grove Shopping Center. The full time service of a gardener is required to care for all the vegetation in and about the Center.

Thousands of yards of mulches and soil conditioners have been used on top soils. More than ninety varieties, originating from all parts of the world, were used, including a palm tree from South America, exotic trees from Australia, China and the Mediterranean. All were selected for their

visual impact and effective color. Largest of the College Grove plantings are the twenty palm trees, ranging from 18 to 90 ft. high, located throughout the Center. Three of the tallest palms, over a half century old, are planted in the lower level facing Highway 94. Their tops project through an opening in the upper parking level.

There are 33 olive trees, 11 camphor trees, 2 liquidambar, 10 magnolia, 10 Brazilian peppers, 13 sycamores, 4 evergreen pear and 36 eucalyptus trees. Over 233,000 ground-cover plants are growing at College Grove including 50,000 Algerian ivy, 60,000 ice plant, 1000 gazania, 6700 yellow ice plant, and thousands of ferns and blue violets.

Landscaping at College Grove brings joy to the many College Grove visitors and shoppers throughout the year. One of the highlights of College Grove is the tumbling waterfall adjacent to the moving sidewalks leading to the upper mall.



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